

MINUTES

City Council Meeting

Monday, September 17, 2012

Call to Order: Mayor Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening: Councilmember Cody offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mayor Holder presided. Council Members: Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Scott George, Bessie Kicklighter and Judy Shuman.

Staff Present: Brian Johnson, City Manager; Ron Feldner, Deputy City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Cory Salley, Finance Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief and Scott Allison, PED Director and Benny Gooze, Public Works Director.

Amendment to the City Council Agenda: Mayor Holder said we need to amend the agenda to add the consideration of extending the Master Developer's Feasibility Period. He said we do not have another City Council Meeting until October 1st and the agreement is set to expire September 23rd.

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to approve amending the agenda to add the consideration of extending the Master Developer's Feasibility Period under the "Items of Consideration" section of the agenda.

Informal Public Comment:

State Representative Bob Bryant said I received a request from one of my constituents asking for my support of the CAT service being extending to Garden City. I support CAT and would love to see the service throughout Chatham County. Twenty years ago I was involved with a group to get the bus service in our community. We have CAT service in my neighborhood and we pay the CAT tax. I don't mind paying the CAT tax. I don't ride the bus, but for people who need transportation it is a good system. I support the entire community being a part of the CAT service. I would like to recommend to Garden City to get with the group requesting CAT service and give them the right method to do this. I don't believe they understand the procedures to follow and I request the information be relayed to the interested parties.

Reverend Gary Monroe, 36 Hawkinsville Road, said I represent Leonard Hodges who is requesting that the CAT service be extended to Garden City in the Highway 80/Heidt Avenue area. I received a memo from the CAT Board Chairman listing two options that could be used - County wide CAT service or specific district. If specific district is used, Garden City would need to contact CAT to initiate. Mr. Hodges has obtained a lot of signatures of residents and businesses endorsing his petition for CAT service in Garden City.

City Manager said I haven't asked City Council for a formal decision yet, because CAT needs to make decision first. If the CAT Board decides that it makes sense to extend the service to Garden City, then they will come back to us. Everyone needs to understand that CAT is not governed by the State, not the County. CAT only operates in two cities in Chatham County – Savannah and Garden City. The CAT tax is charged to everyone in Savannah regardless of whether or not they use the bus system. In Garden City the CAT tax is based on an equation with only those residents and business being taxed in the area where the CAT service is offered. We posed the question to CAT staff to find out what criteria the equation is based on. We are currently awaiting the CAT staff's response. Once we receive this information then City Council can begin their decision process. Since this is a tax it will have to go through the General Assembly approval process. I had a meeting with the CAT Board Chairman prior to the meeting held by the Homestead Association. The CAT agreement that is in place now hasn't been adjusted in decades. The Chairman of the CAT Board said he will have to get with Pat Monahan who was there at the time the original agreement was put in place to find out the details of the agreement.

Reverend Monroe said I am not pleased to hear that some areas are in the CAT district while others aren't. I believe the district on Chatham Parkway to the jail continues to Highway 80.

City Manager said the concern is that it has been so long that they could be taxed and not be getting the service. This could have opened up a sort of Pandora's Box and that may require redistricting. I would suggest that you keep pursuing the issue and keep the petitions, because you may not need them now, but could later in the process.

Public Hearings:

Alcoholic Beverage License Application (Owner): Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on an alcoholic beverage license application by Gregory M. Parker to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Parkers #39, 4219 Augusta Road, Garden City, Georgia 31408.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against the application.

There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing.

Alcoholic Beverage Manager's License Application: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on an alcoholic beverage manager's license application by Amy M. Lane to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Parker #39, 4219 Augusta Road, Garden City, Georgia 31408.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against the application.

There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated 9/4/12.

Staff Reports:

Finance Director presented the Finance Department's monthly status report.

Councilmember Kicklighter posed questions to the Finance Director regarding increases in the following budget line items: Executive Department Contracts & Agreements; IT Department Building Maintenance & Computer Software; and Finance Department Contracts & Agreements.

Finance Director responded to Councilmember Kicklighter's questions and explained the increase in each of the individual line items.

Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's monthly status report.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's monthly status report.

Councilmember Kicklighter requested the Fire Chief provide a list to City Council Members of all the grants that the fire department has been awarded going back to 2010.

Councilmember Bethune asked if the Fire Department writes their grants.

Fire Chief said Mike Godbold writes our grants.

City Manager said he doesn't write all of your grants.

Councilmember Kicklighter said the Fire Department does a wonderful job on getting grants.

Police Chief presented the Police Department's monthly status report.

Items for Consideration:

First Reading, Accident Recover Fees Ordinance: Clerk of Council read for the first reading an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to provide for the imposition of non-resident vehicle accident and roadway fire fees; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide and effective date; and for other purposes.

City Manager said this ordinance is related to the Fire Department's responses to vehicle accidents and roadway fires. This ordinance will allow the City to use a third party to collect the fees to reimburse ourselves. This does not apply to Garden City residents and businesses that pay fire protection fees. This only applies to non-resident's calls for service and it is paid through their insurance provider.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance on the first reading.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council to hold the second reading of the ordinance.

Second Reading, Accident Recover Fees Ordinance: Clerk of Council read for the second reading an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to provide for the imposition of non-resident vehicle accident and roadway fire fees; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide and effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance on the second reading.

Resolution, FY12 General Fund Budget Amendment: Mayor Holder read a resolution to amend the FY12 General Operating Fund to adjust for the differences between the originally budgeted and presently projected revenues and expenditures for certain of the City's various budgets.

Councilmember Kicklighter requested the City Manager read all the projects City Council has approved this year.

City Manager read the projects as listed in the exhibit of the FY12 General Fund Budget Amendment Resolution.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution, FY12 Enterprise Funds Budget Amendments: Mayor Holder read a resolution to amend the FY12 Budgets for the four Enterprise Funds; to adjust for the differences between the originally budgeted and presently projected revenues and expenses for certain of the various line items in the budgets of the four different enterprise funds.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Alcoholic Beverage License Application (Owner): Mayor Holder said we have for consideration of an alcoholic beverage license application by Gregory M. Parker to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Parkers #39, 4219 Augusta Road, Garden City, Georgia 31408.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to approve the alcoholic beverage license application for Gregory M. Parker.

Councilmember Kicklighter said I would like to welcome Parker's to Garden City.

Alcoholic Beverage Manager's License Application: Consideration of an alcoholic beverage manager's license application by Amy M. Lane to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Parker #39, 4219 Augusta Road, Garden City, Georgia 31408.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to approve the alcoholic beverage manager's license application for Amy M. Lane.

Resolution, 12-Month Extension of the Master Developer's Feasibility Period: Mayor Holder read a resolution to extend the Master Developer's Feasibility Period by 12-months so that the current Master Development Agreement may be amended and restated.

Mayor Holder said we added this for consideration, because we will not have another City Council meeting before the September 23rd expiration date.

Councilmember Bethune said the Developer is currently working with a potential client and has request we extend the agreement 12 months.

Councilmember Shuman said the Developer has been working, but it has been had because of the economy. I believe all of Garden City would like to see something happen at the Town Center.

Mayor Pro-tem George said I want to see the library build here, but we have committed to other projects. Our focus is to make sure all of Garden City is taken care of and we have projects that need our attention and I am not in favor of approving the extension.

Councilmember Kicklighter said I read the editorial in today's edition of the Savannah Morning Newspaper regarding the library and I will not vote to approve the extension.

Councilmember Campbell said I am not in favor of extending the feasibility period for the same reasons expressed by Mayor Pro-tem George and Councilmember Kicklighter.

Councilmember Cody said I feel the same way and I am not in favor of extending the agreement.

Mayor Holder said I am in favor of extending the feasibility period for 12-months.

Mayor Holder called for a motion.

Councilmember Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Shuman to extend the Master Developer's feasibility period for 12-months.

Councilmember Kicklighter asked for the Clerk of Council to conduct a roll call vote.

Clerk of Council conducted the roll call vote with City Council voting as follows:

Councilmember Bethune – aye

Councilmember Campbell – nay

Councilmember Cody – nay

Councilmember George – nay

Councilmember Kicklighter – nay

Councilmember Shuman – aye

Mayor Holder - aye

Mayor Holder said the motion to extend the Master Developer's Feasibility Period failed.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Transcribed by: Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council

Approved by City Council: 10-1-12